

following measures to boost the trade:

- (i) Organisation of trade Fairs & Exhibitions, exchange of political and official level delegations, intensifying marketing efforts etc.
- (ii) Greater exchange of specialised business delegations between India and selected West African countries
- (iii) Considering the possibility of utilising the forum of Indo-French Joint Commission for making in-roads into the (Francophone) West Africa

Bye-Pass on National Highways in Goa

4929. SHRI HARISH NARYAN PRABHU ZANTYE. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government propose to construct any bye-pass to National Highways in Goa during 1992-93; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGTISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with SAARC countries

4930. DR. SUDHIR RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to build closer ties with other third world countries so as to fight a better international economic order;

(b) if so, whether India's trade with SAARC countries have increased during the last year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Efforts are being made to strengthen economic and commercial ties with all countries.

(b) and (c). The details of trade with the SAARC countries during the fiscal year 1990-91 as compared to the corresponding year 1989-90 are given below:

<i>(Rs. in Crores)</i>		
	19 89-90	1990-91
Exports	696.96	957.06
Imports	102.10	235.77
Balance of Trade	(+) 594.86	(+) 721.29

(Source: D G C.I.S., Calcutta)

Trade with Commonwealth of Independent States

4931. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade between India and the Commonwealth of Independent States will no longer be through the centralised account with the bank for foreign trade of the former Soviet Union;

(b) whether the Government propose to close all trading accounts with the Soviet Union and re-open these in the names of the newly independent republics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). New trading accounts have been opened in the name of Russia and Uzbekistan for conducting trade with them. Opening of accounts in the names of other Republics would follow finalisation of Trade Agreements and Banking Agreements with them.

Boycott of Raids by Income Tax Officers

4932. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Gazetted Officers in Income Tax Department are boycotting the income tax raids for the last nine months and thereby causing heavy loss to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). A number of serious incidents of violence during the course of search operations in 1989 and 1990 led to countrywide protests and agitation by the officers and staff associations of the Income tax Department demanding adequate security to those deputed for search and seizure operations. Suitable administrative steps in this regard have been taken in consultation with the Home Ministry and other Departments as also the State Governments. Normal search and seizure operation have since started from December, 1991.

Even though in a particular case the actual conduct of search may be delayed by a few months, it may not necessarily affect the revenue adversely and the alleged loss cannot therefore be quantified.

[Translation]

Credit Deposit Ration in Rajasthan

4933. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount deposited in small savings schemes, Life Insurance Corporation of India, Unit Trust of India, nationalised banks and other deposit schemes during each of the last three years and upto February, 29, 1992 in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount invested in various schemes of Rajasthan out of the said deposits;

(c) whether the government propose to invest three fourth of said deposits only on the development projects of the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons, therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

[English]

Cargo Handled by Major Ports

4934. SHRI R. DHANUSKODI
ATHITHAN:
DR.V. RAJESHWARAN:
SHRI C. SRINIVASAN:
SHRIGOPINATHGAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of cargo handled by the major ports during July 1991 to march, 1992, month-wise and port-wise along with the targets fixed; and